

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. By this Amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 1 and 17 and added new claims 18-27. Thus, claims 2-16 and 18-27 are now pending in the application. In response to the Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims define patentable subject matter.

The Examiner is requested to acknowledge receipt of the priority document and the claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 in the next action.

The Examiner is requested to indicate acceptance of the drawings filed on May 25, 2001 in the next action.

Claims 1-17 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Panusopone et al. (USP 6,647,061; hereafter Panusopone”). Claims 12-15 are allowed and claims 2-14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

By this Amendment, Applicant has rewritten claim 2 in independent form and amended independent claim 16 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 2. Further, Applicant has added new dependent apparatus claims 18-27, corresponding to method claims 2-11, in order to further define the apparatus of claim 16. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that 2-16 and 18-27 should now be in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
U.S. Patent Application No. 09/864,385

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

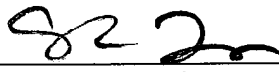
Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

  
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Christopher R. Lipp  
Registration No. 41,157

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